IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A method of thickening liquid hydrocarbon fuel oils ~~hydrocarbons~~, the method comprising mixing [[the]] a liquid hydrocarbon with an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form to yield a thickened homogenous solution, characterized in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62 °C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 1.4×10^6 to 2.0×10^6.

2. canceled

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim [[2]] 1, in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight ~~comprises a low odour kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62°C~~.

4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

6. canceled

7. (currently amended) A composition of matter comprising a thickened homogenous solution of an essentially paraffin polyolefin polymer in solid form dissolved in a liquid hydrocarbon fuel oil, characterized in that the liquid hydrocarbon comprises commercial kerosene having a flashpoint greater than or equal to 62 °C and the polymer has a molecular weight in the range of 1.4×10^6 to 2.0×10^6.

8. canceled

9. canceled

10. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 7, in which the polyolefin polymer a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

11. (original) A composition according to claim 10, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

12. canceled

13. canceled

14. (previously presented) A composition according to claim 7 for use as a barbecue lighting fuel.

15. (new) A composition according to claim 7 in which the kerosene has a concentration of 90 to <100% by weight and the polymer has a concentration of up to 5% by weight.

16. (new) A composition according to claim 15, in which the polyolefin polymer a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

17. (new) A method according to claim 3, in which the polyolefin polymer comprises a medium or high molecular weight polymer of an alkene.

18. (new) A method according to claim 17, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.

19. (new) A composition according to claim 16, in which the alkene comprises a branched chain alkene.